



# Maricopa County

## News Release

Environmental Services  
Department  
1001 N. Central Avenue  
Suite 550  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Phone: 602-506-6611  
Fax: 602-506-1874  
[www.maricopa.gov/envsvc](http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc)

For additional information: Johnny Diloné, Public Information Officer  
(602) 506-6611, Cell Phone: (602) 525-2423

January 23, 2006

## Roof Rats—How to Control and Eradicate!

More Phoenix Metro areas are finding an unpleasant rodent in their neighborhoods. Roof rats cause property damage and are a nuisance to Maricopa County residents. Roof rats seek available food source and can be eliminated from neighborhoods if properties are properly maintained.

Due to the abundance of food sources throughout the Valley, this rat problem has potential to spread quickly and widely. They are most active at night and may eat a variety of foods, including fruit / citrus on tree limbs and on the ground, uncovered garbage, pet food, etc.

One of the areas where community involvement has helped reduce the presence of Roof rats is the Arcadia district of Phoenix. An informational meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow Tuesday, January 24, for local residents, especially those new to the area, and any others interested in learning more about Roof rats. Barry Paceley, Director of Arcadia Neighbor-to-Nighbor and member of the Maricopa County Roof Rat Task Force, will speak on how residents can protect their homes and neighborhoods from these destructive pests.

**How to Control and Eradicate Roof Rats**  
**Tuesday January 24, 2006**  
**At 6:30 p.m.**  
**Ingleside Middle School**  
**5402 East Osborn Road**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85018**

There are several things the public can do to help eliminate Roof rats:

### *Eliminate Food Sources*

- Keep garbage containers tightly covered.
- Store bulk foods in sealed, rat-proof containers.
- Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight.
- Promptly pick-up any fallen fruit from citrus trees, etc.
- When possible, harvest citrus crops promptly and completely.

### *Control /Kill Roof Rats*

- Consult a professional exterminator.
- Trap rats with large size spring-loaded "snap" traps or glue boards that can be purchased at hardware or feed stores. Bait traps with peanut butter and place them in areas with known rat activity. Identify good trapping sites by the presence of rat droppings, gnaw

--more--

marks or where you have seen or heard them in the recent past. Be extra careful where you place large sized rat traps as the powerful spring can injure children and pets.

PLEASE NOTE: It is essential to eliminate other sources of food before trapping.

- **Poison Baits**: If you choose to use poison baits, use only products that are designed and labeled for controlling rats, and read and follow label instructions carefully. Be extremely careful where you place poison baits to protect children, pets, and non-target animals.

For complaints and additional information on Roof rats please visit [www.maricopa.edu/ensvc](http://www.maricopa.edu/ensvc) or call (602) 506-6616.

###